



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANTS \$200,139 Available for Rural Areas in Louisiana**

ALEXANDRIA, LA, March 30, 2004 – USDA Rural Development is currently accepting competitive applications for Housing Preservation Grant Program funds. Eligible entities will compete for \$200,139 available in Louisiana for housing repair and rehabilitation projects.

“The Housing Preservation Grant Program is designed to provide repair and rehabilitation assistance to eligible homeowners and owners of single family or multi-unit rental properties and cooperative housing complexes in rural areas,” said Michael B. Taylor, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Louisiana.

Eligible entities for these competitively-awarded grants include state and local governments, nonprofit corporations, federally-recognized Indian Tribes, and consortia of eligible entities.

The closing date for acceptance of applications is May 6, 2004, at 5:00 p.m., and USDA Rural Development will not consider applications received after that date and time.

Interested parties should contact the USDA Rural Development State Office to receive copies of the application package and additional information. The State Office is located at 3727 Government Street in Alexandria, telephone (318) 473-7962. In addition, detailed information regarding the grant application and selection process can be found in the February 6, 2004, and March 17, 2004, issues of the Federal Register available online at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/index.html>.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/>.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

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